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Tenants, Not Owners | Part 1

1st Sunday of Misra

Parable of the Wicked Vinedressers

- “A certain man planted a vineyard, leased it to vinedressers, and went into a far country for a long time.” (Luke 20:9)
- “... *He left little for them to do; to take care of what was there, and to preserve what was given to them.*”
— St. John Chrysostom
- “For who makes you differ from another? **And what do you have that you did not receive? Now if you did indeed receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?**” (1 Corinthians 4:7)

HEALTH — THE BODY

- **“Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.” (1 Corinthians 6:19–20)**
- **How does God want me to use my body?**
- **"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service." (Romans 12:1)**
- **"And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God." (Romans 6:13)**

CHILDREN

- **“Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb is a reward.” (Psalm 127:3)**
- **“Therefore I also have lent him to the LORD; as long as he lives he shall be lent to the LORD.” (1 Samuel 1:28)**
- **Our children are the Lord’s**
- **"Behold, all souls are Mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is Mine." (Ezekiel 18:4)**

CHILDREN

- Our children are gift from God, and we are stewards over this gift
- *“Today you are accountable for their actions and deeds, and have become guarantors from Christ to the true assurance, that you may answer on their behalf on Judgement Day.”*
(Baptismal Command to Parents)

MONEY

- “And you say in your heart, ‘My power and the might of my hand have gained me this wealth.’ And you shall remember the LORD your God, **for it is He who gives you power to get wealth.**”
(Deuteronomy 8:17–18)
- **"But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly as this? For all things come from You, and of Your own we have given You."** (1 Chronicles 29:14)

Parable of the Rich Fool (Luke 12:16-21)

- Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: **“The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. 17 And he thought within himself, saying, ‘What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?’ 18 So he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. 19 And I will say to my soul, ‘Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.’” 20 But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?’ 21 “So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”**
- The Lord Jesus makes the stewardship explicit:
- **"Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in what is another man's, who will give you what is your own?" (Luke 16:11-12)**

Conclusion

- Recall there were 3 features of the lease
- It has an Owner.
- It has a term.
 - **“For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.” (1 Timothy 6:7)**
- It has a rent.
 - **“Now at vintage-time he sent a servant to the vinedressers, that they might give him some of the fruit of the vineyard.” (Luke 20:10)**